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CIA-RDP81-00706R000100220002-5

CONFIDENTIAL

4-18648

Executive, CIA

10 MAR 1950

Assistant Director, CRE

Standardization of Place-names

REFERENCE : [redacted] 50X1

ENCLOSURE : List of Approved Place-names in China

1. Paragraph 2 of reference directs that "transliteration of Chinese will be by the Wade-Giles system". However, in implementing this directive a confusing lack of uniformity in spelling of place-names has grown within CIA. Some CIA units use well-known, conventional names for cities which other units identify and record through the literal Wade-Giles spelling of Chinese names. Thus, Chefoo in one CIA map or report may appear as Yen-t'ai or as both in another report.

2. Pertinent to resolution of this problem is the fact that it is now the practice in CIA production of HIS chapters to use the conventional place-names - rather than the literal Wade-Giles - in all instances where a conventional place-name has been approved by the US Board on Geographic Names.

3. It is therefore recommended that:

a. CIA personnel use conventional place-names rather than the literal Wade-Giles spelling of Chinese names in all instances where a conventional place-name has been approved by the U. S. Board on Geographic Names.

b. Otherwise, CIA personnel use the literal Wade-Giles spelling.

4. This proposal has been presented to and has received the written concurrences of all Assistant Directors. These concurrences covered as well a proposal that the enclosure hereto be reproduced and distributed throughout CIA as a reference guide. This enclosure, prepared on request of CRE Map Division by the Staff of the U. S. Board on Geographic Names, lists the Board's currently approved conventional China place-names.

5. If this recommendation is approved, it is proposed that the following implementing action be taken:

a. Revise [redacted] by: 50X1

(1) changing paragraph 2 to read,

"2. Transliteration of Chinese will be by the Wade-Giles system, except that conventional place-names approved by the U. S. Board on Geographic Names (furnished as Enclosure G

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hereto) will always be used and the corresponding literal Hale-Giles spelling will be avoided."

(2) changing enclosures description to read:

"Enclosures: 7

A, B, C, D, E, F, G".

(3) Using the enclosure hereto as Enclosure G of the revised [redacted] 50X1

(4) Reproducing the enclosure hereto and forwarding fifty copies to each Assistant Director for internal distribution.

6. On 1 September 1950 and periodically thereafter AD/ORE, unless otherwise directed, will submit modifications to the enclosure if any have been made.

[redacted]
/s/ [redacted]
for THEODORE BABBITT

50X1

50X1

S/PP [redacted]

Distribution:
AD/ORE (2)
S/PP (2)
AD/OO (1) ✓
AD/OSO (1)
AD/OSI (1)
AD/OPC (1)
AD/OCD (1)

OO✓- Copy sent to each Division on 13 Mar 50, for info and file.
ACG

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